



THE BULLETIN

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA
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February 18, 1956

Club Calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 21 — Open House and Cocktail Party, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13 — Swiss regional dinner, 7 p.m.

OVERSEAS TICKER

ATHENS

There are 30-odd foreign correspondents accredited in Athens. Almost all are members of the Foreign Press Association whose president is, and has been for years, A.C. Sedgwick of The New York Times. Incidentally, he is the only American correspondent and the Times is the only American daily represented here. All American wire services are in charge of Greeks.

American correspondents, planning to visit Cyprus, are forewarned of rigid visa practices. A British "permit" is required and can be applied for at any British consulate. But before it is issued the British consul must get the OK of the British administration in Nicosia, capital of Cyprus. According to distance, and unless requested by cable (for which the applicant must pay) it may take weeks to arrive. No such permits are issued to Greek newsmen despite the fact that the British press is represented in Athens.

British information sources deny it, but there is ample evidence that the
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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

The Council on Foreign Relations announces that May 15 is the deadline for applications for the annual resident fellowship for an American foreign correspondent.

The fellowship, which will be awarded by June 20, provides for study and research at the Council in New York City and at a nearby university.

Present holder of the fellowship is William J. Jordan of the Tokyo bureau of The New York Times.

OPC AND IFFJ IN TALKS ON IRON CURTAIN NEWS

By Connie Gomperts

The problems of relaying information behind the Iron Curtain were aired Monday night at a discussion sponsored by the International Federation of Free Journalists and the OPC.

A capacity crowd filled the dining room to hear a seven-man panel explore the prospects of facilitating the free flow of information between East and West. Louis Lochner, OPC president,

was the moderator.

The IFFJ speakers were Boleslaw Wierzbianski, president of the organization and chairman of the Polish Union of Free Journalists; George Ionescu of Rumania, vice president of the IFFJ and radio commentator, and John Stransky of Czechoslovakia, chief of the Czech desk for Free Europe Press.

Representing the OPC were Ansel E. Talbert, military and aviation editor of the New York Herald Tribune; Eugene Lyons, a senior editor of the Reader's Digest; and Bob Considine, INS columnist.

Max Beer, West European correspondent of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung of Switzerland, completed the panel.

The importance of maintaining channels of information to the Iron Curtain countries was stressed by Wierzbianski. "The Russians conceive of the press as an instrument of Communism, to be used to secure the so-called progress of any communistic society," he said.

Western information beamed to peoples behind the Iron Curtain is building up resistance that will lead to a psychological revolution against the Communists, he stated.

Lyons argued that Russia itself is being overlooked in the propaganda war conducted by Radio Free Europe. "There are 15,000,000 political prisoners in Russia, and our allies there number in tens of millions," he said.

He also advised the US to pay more attention to the news it transmits. "We must first have a decent policy behind our communications," he stated, charging that public opinion is insufficiently aware of the seriousness of the cold war.

"The Iron Curtain can be and is being pierced," said Stransky. Day-by-day communication, he continued, is giving the other side of the news to the

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HAL LEHRMAN

Open House Guest: Hal Lehrman, OPC vice president, just back from a seven-month tour of North Africa and the Middle East, will be honored at an open house and cocktail party to be followed by an informal dinner discussion, on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The discussion topic will be "Trouble Spots from Tangier to Baghdad." While abroad, Lehrman's articles appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The Reporter, Commentary, The American Weekly, and other publications.

THE BULLETIN

Published weekly by the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc., 35 East 39th St., New York 16, N.Y. MUrray Hill 6-1630.

Editor & Committee Chairman: David Murray. — **Co-Editors:** Charles E. Campbell, Jr., Jimm Galligan, Samuel R. Kan, Norbert Lyons, John R. Wilhelm.

Issue Editor: Samuel R. Kan. **Asst.:** Connie Gomperts.

Correspondents: Curt L. Heymann (Paris); Robert Benjamin (Mexico City); Darrel Berrigan (Bangkok); Beryl Kent (Los Angeles-Hollywood); Gerhard Stindt (Berlin); Jessie Stearns (Washington); Barbara Wace (London); Stuart Griffin (Tokyo); Geraldine Fitch (Taipei).

THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB Officers and Board

President: Louis P. Lochner; **Vice Presidents:** Kathryn Cravens, Ansel E. Talbert, Hal Lehman; **Secretary-Treasurer:** A. Wilfred May; **Asst. to President:** Will Yolen.

Board of Governors: Norwood F. Allman, John Barkham, Seymour Berkson, Lawrence Blochman, Cecil Brown, Emanuel Freedman, Ben Grauer, Ruth Lloyd, Kathleen McLaughlin, Gabriel Pressman, Charles Robbins, Madeline D. Ross, Cornelius Ryan; **Alternates:** Fleur Cowles, Walter Rundle, Helen Zotos.

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NEW RULES IN EFFECT FOR REGIONAL DINNERS

Because of the growing popularity of the Hospitality Committee's monthly regional dinners and the limited capacity of the club dining room, new rules have been set up in an effort to give more members a chance to attend. *Joe Peters*, vice chairman of the committee, an-

OVERSEAS TICKER (C't'd f page 1)

British administration in Cyprus does not, under present conditions, exactly favor the presence of foreign correspondents. In fact there aren't any and exceptions are only made in cases of well-known reporters, representing individual, top-ranking dailies. There are only two correspondents permanently based in Nicosia. They represent the Times of London and Reuters. Both are Britishers.

When an American wire service wanted to assign (through its Athens office) a Greek Cypriot in Nicosia as a stringer, the British administration refused his accreditation. Instead, the service had to accept the services of an Englishman.

Complications likewise exist for roving correspondents to Israel and Egypt. If a newsman wants to go, first, to Israel, he is advised to get his Israeli visa on a blank piece of paper and not in his passport. Because, if he presents his passport with an Israeli visa at an Egyptian consulate, his

nounces the following rules will take effect immediately:

1. Reservations will not be accepted until three weeks before the scheduled dinner. As previously reservations must be accompanied by checks, and OPC members may bring only one guest.

2. Members whose applications and checks arrive after the reservation list is complete, or who receive seats in the bar, will be permitted to make reservations for the next dinner before reservations are open officially. For example, those who missed the Italian dinner last

Egyptian visa will be flatly refused.

Curt L. Heymann

TAIPEI, FORMOSA

Translating what might be termed "pidgin English" from the local English press, it was deduced from mention of "Emary Bass" that *Demaree Bess* of the Saturday Evening Post was here on a Far East trip. *Edward Hunter* breezed through Singapore en route to New York with a new book ms.

The Government Information Bureau has a new director in Dr. Sampson Shen, chief English interpreter for President Chiang Kai-Shek.

Dr. George A. Fitch was decorated by the Chinese Government for the fourth time on Jan. 23, his birthday. The Order of the Brilliant Star was given to him for keeping safe and resettling 11,000 Chinese intellectuals who fled Red China.

On the same day, this correspondent, addressed 3,000 former POWs from Korea on the second anniversary of their release.

Geraldine Fitch

Tuesday — it was sold out two days after it was announced in the Bulletin — will have first choice for the Swiss night on March 13, before tickets go on sale officially.

Other dinners planned for the future include a Holland Tulip Festival in April, a West German May wine dinner and a Philippines night in June.

WW ADS CLOSED

Because of the large volume of advertising already sold for the upcoming OPC Who's Who, no further ads can be accepted.

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WORLD'S MOST EXPERIENCED AIRLINE

TV SHOW "FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT" TO BE THE OPC'S OWN

Production of a TV film series, tentatively titled "Foreign Correspondent," has been made possible under a contract signed by the club with Derel Producing Associates of New York City.

Under the terms of the contract, announced by *Matthew Huttner*, OPC Radio-TV chairman, the club agrees to make its name and prestige available to Derel and to aid the producers in obtaining the outstanding stories of OPC members for dramatization. Derel plans to film the series abroad under an arrangement with a leading TV network.

Club members will receive \$500 for each story dramatized. An additional \$250 will be paid for a personal appearance to accept the special correspondent's award that is being created for the series. The club will also receive \$750 per program for the use of its name. It will exercise responsibility to insure that the dramatizations are of high calibre so that they reflect favorably on the OPC.

According to *Gene Feldman*, Derel story editor, "Foreign Correspondent" will tell how a reporter goes about getting an outstanding story. "The story may involve a nation's destiny or a single man's freedom," he said. "In either case it will portray a public service being rendered by the working reporter."

The OPC Board of Governors has gone on record urging members to retain their pet stories for "Foreign Correspondent," which will be the official program of the Overseas Press Club. It also has warned members to be on guard against producers who may attempt to enlist their aid in organizing programs similar to "Foreign Correspondent."

Club members with stories they believe especially suitable for dramatization may reach Feldman at 68 William Street, New York 5, N.Y., BOwling Green 9-1550.

EUROPEAN MEMBERS CAN TELL IT TO SMITH

Thor Smith will be on the continent for two months, carrying letters patent from the committee which handles complaints, squawks, etc. Members who wish to contact Smith may get in touch with him at the Hotel Flora in Rome and through *Curt L. Heymann* in Paris.

D.C., March 9— It's Cocktail Time

New York members of the OPC are invited to the Washington, D.C., cocktail party hosted by the OPC branch there. The party, scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, March 9th, will be held at the National Press Club.

Invited guests include *Jim Hagerty*, press secretary, and Senators and Congressmen who have a special interest in the foreign press.

It is hoped that the New York OPC will be represented by a large number of members.

SILURIANS HONOR FOUR

Four presidents of journalistic bodies were feted on Feb. 8th at a Silurian cocktail party.

Those honored were *Jack Ryan* of the N.Y. Financial Writers Association, *Ray Doyle* of the N.Y. Reporters Association, *A. Vincent Casp* of the Inner

PEOPLE & PLACES...

Off for an island-hopping cruise of the Mediterranean are *H.V. Kaltenborn* and his wife *Olga*. The trip is to be a "real vacation" and not, as usual, a news-hunting expedition, according to *H.V. ... John Day* of CBS was the feature speaker at a recent dinner given at the University of Minnesota. He discussed "News on the Air — Where is it Heading?" The dinner was an annual affair of the Radio-TV News Short Course, taught by the School of Journalism.

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Circle, and *Louis Lochner* of the Overseas Press Club.

The Silurians, headed by OPCer *Charles Donnelly*, is a society of men who have worked 25 years or more on the staffs on New York City newspapers. Lately the Silurians have been meeting in a fourth-floor room of the Memorial Press Center.

Life Among the Penguins

he author of the following report on correspondents with "Operation Deepfreeze" in Antarctica is OPCer *Dick Dempewolf*, Eastern editor of *Popular Mechanics* magazine and correspondent at the South Pole for the *Bulletin*.

McMurdo Sound, Antarctica (by radio) — Like prospectors straggling in the claims office with pay dirt, "Operation Deepfreeze's" bearded correspondents trooped in here this week to catch ships departing ahead of the oncoming winter freezeup. They arrived in everything from aircraft to dogsled from the bleak winterlands where they had been chasing stories of base-building operations at opposite sides of the 300-mile wide Ross Sea. Some had covered the trail party out on the barrier. Others had been with scientists high in the frigid glaciers.

They fell on each other like long-lost cousins for five minutes before racing for typewriters in a rush to monopolize the limited transmission facilities and louse them up for everyone else.

The AP's *Saul Pett* and *Bernie*

Kalb of The New York Times established a running rivalry that kept copy pouring at speeds to warm the hearts of their respective employers. The competition even extended to beards until *Bernie's* black-whiskered, bush-like foliage bloomed like *Grandpa's*. *Pett* resignedly shaved his spotty goatee and settled for a mustache, which he claims is "more suitable to the dignity of a world-wide organization like the AP, anyway."

The truce flag waved between the two when *Saul* stepped on a snow-bridged crevasse and fell into 28-degree water and *Bernie* hauled him out.

"The boss will never forgive me for missing this opportunity to step gently on his head for a few minutes," *Bernie* admits, "but it's clearly understood that the Times reduced the A.P."

Pett's innings came when he won the pool to fly over the South Pole and turned in a story that was front-paged by newspapers coast to coast. *Saul* is now headed home aboard the U.S.S. *Arneb*.

(first of a series)

OPC and IFFJ (C't'd. f. page 1)

people behind the Iron Curtain, and a Communist regime cannot afford this.

A plea to step up efforts to pierce the Iron Curtain was voiced by Talbert. "We are letting the people know that we are not deserting them, and we are keeping alive the spirit of freedom in Eastern Europe," the OPC vice president declared.

The most dangerous visitors to Russia are "naive tourists," said Ionescu. He explained that such visitors, often distinguished Senators, are "absolutely fooled" by their guides, and, upon returning home, give inaccurate reports that are believed implicitly by their countrymen.

A truly free flow of information seems impossible in the near future unless there is a war or an internal revolution in the Iron Curtain countries, Considine said. Dictatorships cannot afford to have the truth told, he pointed out.

For the present, only a "pabulum of foreign correspondence" will come from those countries, he predicted. Newsmen who report the truth, such as *Harrison Salisbury* of The Times, are not permitted to return to Russia, he emphasized.

The last speaker, Beer, charged the UN with a failure to defend freedom of information.

"A terrible blow to the freedom of the press was struck at the recent admission of seventeen nations to the UN," he said. "Several of these nations do not permit freedom of the press, contrary to the tenets of the UN charter."

A highlight of the spirited question-

and-answer period that followed was Considine's proposal that the OPC help answer falsehoods and distortions about the West reported to the Iron Curtain press by Communist correspondents here.

The issue arose when Beer, in answer to a question from the floor, urged that major attention be paid to the effect of such propaganda on its readers.

Considine suggested the OPC issue authoritative replies to stories sent home by Communist correspondents, with the answers to be carried in leaflets, distributed via the propaganda balloons and other means.

Tribute to the IFFJ was paid by C.D. Jackson of Time, Inc., at a cocktail party before the dinner.

"Free journalism," he said, "means imperialistic aggressive Communism is not 'safe' and the cause of freedom is 'safer.'"

John F. Leich, assistant director of Free Europe Exile Relations, Wierzbianski, Talbert and Lochner also spoke at the cocktail party.

The party was preceeded by the premiere of the "Freedom of the Press" exhibit, arranged by the IFFJ at the club.

In text, pictures, and newspapers, the exhibit depicts the suppression of the press behind the Iron Curtain. It also includes the work of exiled journalists in the free world. Efforts to pierce the Iron Curtain by various international agencies, including twelve broadcasting systems, are shown.

Sponsored by the Crusade for Freedom, the exhibit leaves the OPC today for a nation-wide tour of the United States.

PEOPLE AND PLACES (C't'd f p. 3)

A 30-year wedding anniversary was celebrated on Feb. 13 by the *Larry Blochmans*... *Mrs. Tobe Collier Davis* will have a Harvard fellowship named in her honor. \$10,000 has already been raised for a Tobe fellowship at the Harvard School of Business Administration on the Art of Retailing.

Ray Robinson, editor of *Real Magazine*, is off on a swing through the Deep South looking into article possibilities and soaking up some sun... *Dr. Howard Rusk*, associate editor of The New York Times, was recently elected to the Methodist Hall of Fame of Philanthropy.

CLASSIFIEDS

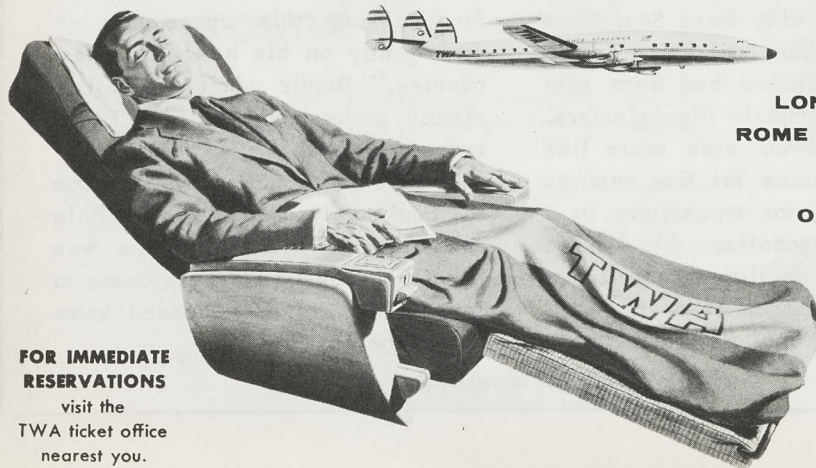
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